

RECOGNIZING THE RICHWOODS
GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM ON
WINNING THE ILLINOIS 3A
STATE TITLE

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Peoria, Illinois' Richwoods High School girls basketball team on winning the 2018 Class 3A state title.

Returning to the state title game for the second straight year, the Lady Knights capped off the 35–1 season with a 55–46 win over La-Grange Park Nazareth. In a back and forth game, the fourth quarter proved pivotal with Richwoods going on a 17–0 run to start the quarter. Over the course of the game, the Richwoods' Knights had an amazing team effort on both offense and defense, with Senior Kourtney Crane led the Knights with 19 points.

Richwoods' win is the 1,001st in school history and they will add a fourth Class 3A state title to their trophy case, becoming only the third high school in Illinois history to achieve this milestone. Richwoods' continued success on the hardwood is a testament to the leadership of Coach Todd Hursey and the determination of the young women he coaches.

The Richwoods girls basketball team serves as a reminder to the people of our community that when we believe in ourselves and dedicate our time and effort to the goals that we set, we can achieve even the most daring outcomes. These young women exemplify the strong work ethic rooted in Central Illinois and we could not be prouder. Again, congratulations to Coach Todd Hursey and the Richwoods girls basketball team their remarkable state championship win.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR
FREDERIC C. HOF

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambassador Frederic C. Hof on his retirement from the Atlantic Council. Ambassador Hof has had an impressive career as a diplomat at the United States Department of State, a private sector CEO, and an officer of the United States Army. He is a Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient. As a military officer, he served on the commission that investigated the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters at the Beirut International Airport. In 2001, he served as chief of staff on the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Commission, headed by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, and was the principal drafter of the Commission's report. During his time at the State Department, Ambassador Hof took the lead in an effort to mediate Syrian-Israeli peace and was given the rank of Ambassador in his capacity as special adviser to the Secretary of State for transition in Syria.

After joining the Atlantic Council, as the leading Syria fellow in the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Ambassador Hof devoted his time to furthering the Syrian cause through

the protection of civilians. As a prolific writer and leader, Ambassador Hof has hosted Syrian experts, activists, political leaders, and humanitarians in high level discussions pertaining to the U.S.-Syria policy and geopolitical implications of the Syrian conflict. Through his efforts, he has led the discussions on securing a stable and legitimate government in Syria and what role the United States should have. After taking on the role of director at the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Ambassador Hof continued his efforts to bring attention to the Syrian conflict and its ongoing destabilization to the region at large.

Mr. Speaker, as the seventh anniversary of the Syrian uprising approaches, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ambassador Hof for his tireless efforts to bring attention to the Syrian conflict and its ongoing destabilization to the region at large. His service to this great nation is deeply appreciated and is a testament to the greatness and opportunity that these United States of America holds for freedom-loving people.

RECOGNIZING DOTTIE JOINER IN
HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Dorothy "Dottie" Joiner, the City Clerk for Everglades City.

Ms. Joiner has been serving Everglades City for twenty-three years and has proved to be loyal, passionate, and driven. She began her career as a purchasing agent, then transitioned into a water billing clerk. In 2002 she was promoted to City Clerk. In her capacity as City Clerk, Dottie oversees the official City records, ranging from the financial statements to the meeting minutes. As such, she is known as the go-to person if an issue needs to be resolved.

Dottie has been crucial in supporting the City in times of crisis. She played a key role in 2005 when Hurricane Wilma destroyed City Hall, resulting in the call for the building to be condemned. She worked tirelessly with the City leadership and myself to showcase the importance of saving the historic building; and was a big part of making sure it happened. More recently, in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, she selflessly looked after the wellbeing of the residents of Everglades City, ensuring that necessary resources were there quickly, despite having lost her own home. Dottie's selflessness during this difficult time and the support she has given our community transcends her official responsibilities.

Her dedication to Everglades City extends beyond her responsibilities as the City Clerk. She also serves on the board of the 4th of July Committee, the Betterment Association of the Everglades Area, as well as the Reach Out and Cops Program. Dottie has always placed her community first, even before herself. We are fortunate to have leaders such as Dottie in Everglades City and Florida's 25th Congressional District, and I and my wife Tia are lucky to be able to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know Ms. Joiner and to have the opportunity to acknowl-

edge her remarkable work for Everglades City. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

IN MEMORIAM: TEXAS STATE
SENATOR JACK OGG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the life and memory of longtime Texas lawmaker and my friend, Jack Ogg of Houston, Texas who recently passed away at the age of 84.

Jack Ogg was a political icon who had a 52-year career in Texas politics and law. He represented the Houston area for 16 years, first as a State Representative and then as a State Senator. His love for the State of Texas and the law prompted him to further serve with a run for Texas Attorney General. After an unsuccessful race, Jack returned to his renowned law practice in Houston.

When I was a criminal court judge in Houston, Senator Ogg practiced in my court.

Jack was also the father of Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg. Kim worked alongside her father at the Ogg Law Firm and remembers her father not only as a great statesman, but a wonderful father who kept his family as his top priority. Kim said her father, "was my closest confidante." Mr. Speaker, when I saw Jack recently at the funeral of our friend, the late Texas Governor Mark White, you could tell he was beaming with pride for Kim and how she was carrying on the Ogg tradition of public service.

Those who served in the legislature alongside Jack said he did what he thought was best for his district and worked inside the rules of the legislature instead of concerning himself with partisan fights. He did what was right and stuck to his principles.

Jack told friends he was proud of authoring the bilingual education act in Texas; the bill to create Metro in Harris County; and a measure re-instating the death penalty in the state. Jack's friend Houston attorney Robert Pelton described Ogg as, "one of the finest human beings I've ever met in my life" who did many good things for the state of Texas.

I admired Jack's adventurous spirit and determination. He suffered from congestive heart failure for many years, but that didn't stop him from being active not only in Houston, but across the globe. Just a few months ago, Mr. Speaker, he took a cruise to Spain and Italy. His family said he was born with an explorer's heart and he traveled to more than 225 countries and islands, and visited all seven continents.

Senator Ogg was born in 1933 during the Depression. His family moved to Houston in the 1950s. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Texas then worked his way through the University of Houston, where he was twice elected class president. He went to law school at night at South Texas College of Law and was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1962. He lost his beloved wife of more than 50 years, philanthropist Connie Harner Ogg, to cancer in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, those who worked with Jack in the State Legislature and at his law practice

agree he was larger than life with a sharp mind and keen craft. Today, I salute Senator Ogg's many contributions to our state and the city of Houston. My prayers are with District Attorney Ogg, her brother Jon Ogg, their spouses, Jack's three grandchildren, as well as his brothers Larry and Jim Ogg.

We will dearly miss Senator Jack Ogg. They don't make 'em like Jack Ogg anymore.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ANN AND REX
WALTERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ann and Rex Walters of Beaconsfield, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on January 26, 1958 in Mount Ayr, Iowa.

Ann and Rex's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN
GILLIGAN, GREATER PITTSSTON
FRIENDLY SONS' MAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Gilligan, who will receive the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons' "Man of the Year" Award. Mr. Gilligan will be honored on March 17, 2018, during the Friendly Sons' annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

John was born in Wyoming, Pennsylvania to Bernard J. and Rosari Gilligan. He is a graduate of Wyoming High School. He enlisted in the Air Force after graduation, serving one year in Da Nang, Vietnam. After four years in the Air Force, John joined the Wyoming Borough Police Department. He served on the force for thirty-two years and retired in 2004 as Chief of Police. He worked in the private sector until his appointment by Governor Edward Rendell to the post of Luzerne County Sheriff. His appointment was unanimously approved by the Pennsylvania Senate.

Gilligan is a Fourth Degree Knight of the John F. Kennedy Council No. 372 Knights of Columbus and a past Grand Knight of the Wyoming Area Council No. 8598. He is a past president of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

John has been married to Karen Zofcin Gilligan for thirty-two years, and they are the

proud parents of seven children. They also have eighteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Gilligan's three sons, grandsons, and great-grandson are members of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a long-standing family tradition.

It is an honor to recognize John Gilligan as he accepts the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons' "Man of the Year" Award. I am grateful to him for his service to our country and for protecting the people of Wyoming Borough and Luzerne County. I wish him all the best this St. Patrick's Day.

RECOGNIZING GLORIA PADILLA IN
HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Gloria Padilla, whose dedication to the people of Immokalee and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) has had a major impact in our community.

RCMA was established in 1965 and provides childcare and education services for low income and rural families. It has grown from two centers to seventy-one and is active in twenty-one counties in Florida. A lifelong resident of Immokalee, Mrs. Padilla has been a proven leader in our community. She joined the RCMA after graduating high school, becoming the youngest area coordinator in agency history. Gloria is currently tasked with overseeing seven childcare centers and twenty-four childcare homes, collectively serving 483 children.

When Hurricane Irma struck in September, she offered the RCMA Immokalee Community School as a shelter for thousands of families displaced by the storm. Additionally, she helped organize with my office the opening of Horizon Village as temporary living spaces for constituents who lost their homes as a result of Irma. I find myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to collaborate with such a dedicated individual who cares so deeply about her community.

In addition to her impressive work at the RCMA, Gloria serves on the board of the One by One Leadership Foundation and assists the community through outreach programs with her church. Through her professional and social capacity, Gloria's dedication to the people of Immokalee has improved the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to know Mrs. Padilla and I greatly admire her service to Immokalee. Gloria is an exemplary citizen who has chosen to use her many talents in service of those around her. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

IN RECOGNITION OF FONA'S
WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, It's not every day that long-term sustained excellence can be duly recognized.

FONA International of Geneva, Illinois, provides just such an opportunity, however. I am privileged to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to Joe Slawek and the employees of FONA International for being named a National Best & Brightest Company to Work For by the National Association of Business Resources for the seventh year in a row.

FONA International creates and produces flavors for many of the largest food, beverage, and nutritional companies in the world. It has been doing this for 30 years—a testament to its sustained excellence and commitment to serving customers through cutting-edge technology and personal attention.

CEO and Founder Joe Slawek calls this the "high-tech, high touch" approach. He founded FONA International in 1987 on these principles. He built a business that could compete with the largest flavor companies but stay connected with customers and his family of employees in a way that only a small business can. The honor of this award speaks to that success.

FONA International has been cited by Fortune magazine as one of the top fifty best places to work for medium-sized businesses nationwide. Fortune also named FONA International as the Number 1 workplace in Chicagoland.

To be selected just once as a National Best & Brightest Company would be a distinguished honor. To receive this award seven years in a row is nothing less than a spectacular achievement.

I congratulate Joe Slawek and the employees of FONA International for this remarkable recognition. I thank FONA International for its years of service to the local community and for its leadership in the flavor production industry. I wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I mistakenly voted no, when I meant to vote yes on Roll Call No. 108, H.R. 1116—the TAILOR Act of 2017.

RECOGNIZING MS. JANET TAYLOR
IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor